

Thomas Harrison House
514 W. Main St.
Richmond
Wayne County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-146

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IN-146

THOMAS HARRISON HOUSE

Location: 514 West Main Street (north side of street)
Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana
Present Owner: Dr. Walter A. Crum and Catherine M. Crum
Present Occupant: Dr. Walter A. Crum
Present Use: Dental office and apartment dwelling.

State of Significance:

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is the office of the Recorder of Wayne County.

1884 Deed April 22, 1884 recorded April 22, 1884 in Record 81, page 19 (lot only).

Naomi W. Harrison
to
Thomas H. Harrison

1899 Deed September 22, 1899 recorded September 23, 1899 in Deed Record 112, page 51.

Thomas H. Harrison & Claribel B. Harrison, his wife
to
Emil Minck

1919 Will October 30, 1919 recorded in Will Record 16, page 505

Emil Minck, Sr.
to
Emil Minck, Jr.

1923 Will November 6, 1923 recorded in Will Record 18, page 29.

Emil Minck, Jr.
to
Sophia Minck (widow)

- 1925 Deed April 15, 1925 recorded April 16, 1925
in Deed Record 163, page 449.
Sophia Minck (widow)
to
Levi S. Miller, Virda N. Miller, husband & wife
- 1931 Deed April 30, 1931 recorded May 4, 1931 in
Deed Record 180, page 215.
Virda N. Miller & husband Levi S.
to
William L. Wessell & Irene N. Wessell, husband
& wife.
- 1931 Deed October 6, 1931 recorded October 26, 1931
in Deed Record 181, page 148.
William L. Wessell & wife Irene N.
to
Laura B. Towle
- 1946 Deed October 1, 1946 recorded October 3, 1946 in
Deed Record 215, page 342.
Laura B. Towle
to
Leslie A. Peck & Kittie A. Peck, husband & wife
and Clarence A. Stutsman & Ellen A. Stutsman,
husband & wife.
- 1947 Deed August 19, 1947 recorded September 16, 1947
in Deed Record 220, page 237.
Leslie A. Peck & Kittie A. Peck, husband & wife
and Clarence A. Stutsman & Ellen A. Stutsman,
husband & wife
to
Earlham College
- 1951 Deed October 23, 1951 recorded August 19, 1953
in Deed Record 256, page 340.
Earlham College
to
Walter A. Crum & Catherine M. Crum, husband & wife

2. Date of erection: 1885.

3. Architect: The house was probably designed by its
builder and owner, Thomas H. Harrison. Harrison (1860-
1939) was a prominent contractor and builder in the
Richmond area for many during the period 1885 to 1898.
He built Lindley Hall at Earlham College, and the Rich-
mond City Hall in 1886, and a number of dwellings in
Richmond and Earlham Place.

4. Alterations and Additions: Photographs dating approximately 1895-1896 indicate that the original structure did not have porches at the southeast and southwest corners. A small wooden floored porch was attached to the northeast corner of the house. A later photograph made approximately 1905-1906 shows the house during the period when it was owned by Emil Minck. This photograph shows covered porches on the northeast, southeast and southwest corners. In addition the latter photograph shows the ornate iron work on the roof missing in the earlier photograph.

Since the 1906 photograph was made the southwest and northeast covered porches have been enclosed, the cover removed from the southeast porch and a doorway constructed into the southeasternmost room of the house.

The interior of the house has been altered for office and apartment use.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Photographs: One photograph of the house is shown in the Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana, 1896, when the house was owned by Thomas H. Harrison. Another photograph appears in the 1806-1906 Centennial Edition of the same book when the house was owned by Emil Minck.

2. Bibliography:

Dalbey - Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana, 1896, Richmond: Nicholson Printing & Mfg. Company.

Dalbey - Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana, 1806-1906, Centennial Edition, Richmond, Indiana: Nicholson Printing & Mfg. Company, pp 186.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Harrison House was designed and built about 1886 by the architect/builder/owner, Thomas H. Harrison as his home.

The house reflects the influence of several styles of architectural treatment of details which are brought together resulting in the overall Victorian character with Gothic and Romanesque influence.

The plan is based on a center front entrance hall leading to the central stair hall which extends through to the roof walk around a central skylight.

The principal living areas, first floor, are on both sides of the entrance hallway with dining room and kitchen on the north side.

Provision is made for service quarters in the north-west part of the house, with separate service stairs on the west side.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Shape of the house is irregular measuring 46'-9" east-west and 53'-6" north-south overall. It is two stories high plus attic and basement, which extends under the entire house.
2. Foundations: Cut limestone and ledge limestone up to water table (similar to local stone).
3. Wall Construction: All main walls above water table are red brick masonry, common bond with some small special brick patterns and stone sills, belt courses, corbels, lintels, etc.
4. Structural Systems: Wood floor joists and rafters cut to full inch dimensions, bearing on masonry walls.
5. Porches: A north-east porch of wood construction was enclosed later with a stone foundation built under it. A south-west porch was built later as was one on the south-east which was later removed completely. These porch additions were colonial in detail with wood brackets and cornices. Early kitchen door porch has been removed.
6. Chimneys: There is one central chimney, two double chimneys on the north and south sides and one on the west side from the kitchen. Only the central one remains above the roof, for heating plant. Central chimney had cast iron cresting and lightning rod in 1906.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways: Main central doorway on east side is recessed under second floor balcony overhang. Entrance ascends up cut limestone steps to large stone entry slab. Front door is double leaf, each with single glass vertical panes.
 - b. Windows: Wood double hung set in the brick masonry or wood trim of bays.

8. Roof:

a. Framing and shape as dictated by the plan with gables, hips, ridges and dormers. Flat roof over roof walk above stair hall with skylight (truncated hip roof). Present roofing is red asphalt tile. Original roof was probably slate. Cast iron cresting around walk was added later between 1896 and 1906.

b. Dormers and dormer gables provide light and ventilation to the attic area.

A moveable skylight panel over central stair hall can provide central ventilation through the attic.

9. Bays: Bays and porches are features of the exterior, providing much of the detail which sets the style and character of the house. The elevations and photos show these features, including

Oriel window on east facade.

Balcony over main entrance - east facade.

Classic (Colonial) door was added on south side front.

Cast iron cresting around roof walk and main central chimney was added between 1896 and 1906 photos.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. Basement: Under entire house, floors concrete and brick. Contains furnace room, storage areas and former laundry with external cellar steps to outside on north side below kitchen.

b. First Floor: Front entrance hall connects to central stair hall with circulation to all parts of the house. From the entrance hall to the north side (right) is the parlor with double sliding doors to the dining room and on to the kitchen. To the south (left) is a double parlor of two (2) connecting rooms with fireplaces, with a third room on the southwest corner of the house. These rooms have been remodeled for office use by partitionins. First and second floors have been remodeled for apartment use in recent years.

c. Second Floor: The plan is similar to the first floor, with bedrooms over the parlors and rooms below. Stair hall connects to balcony over main entrance for light and ventilation. The northwest corner bedroom connects to service stair and back hall as does the southwest bedroom by selective doors to service.

d. Attic: Above entire house is floored over. Cover of skylight may be raised for ventilation over stair hall. Stair goes up to flat roof (walk). Roof framing is full dimension 2X rafters with 1" board sheathing.

2. Stairways: Main central stair hall is rectangular with stairs from basement to first and second and attic floors. Treads and risers are closed string with square newels and half newels to the walls, Victorian and Romansque in style. Handrails are solid molded wood. (See photographs.)

A small wood service stair is reached from the service hallway and kitchen leading to the basement and second floor.

3. Flooring: Most family portions (front) of the house are hardwood flooring including parlors, dining room and halls. Service rooms are softwood.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Plaster painted (wood lath ceilings).

5. Doorways and Doors: Paneled wood doors have pilaster trim with carved corner blocks. North parlor to dining room doors are sliding pair into pockets in the cased jambs. Doorways through masonry walls in parlors have paneled jambs and ventilating glazed sash transoms. Interiors are painted white.

6. Trim: Parlors and dining room and hall have high baseboard with molded top. (See details). Trim is painted white. Probably was stained and varnished.

7. Hardware: Some old hardware remains.

8. Lighting: Electric lighting has been added. Some gas lines are remaining from former installations, including kitchen and to attic area.

9. Heating: Fireplaces furnished heat to most of the principal rooms. These have been block up. Present heat provided by central furnace in basement. The hot water system is oil fired. There is evidence of old coal bin in basement with a coal chute window.

D. Site:

General Setting: The site of the house is on a knoll facing eastward on West 5th Street at the corner with West Main Street. To the north on 5th Street were three other houses each fronting about a half block on 5th Street and depth to 6th Street. All these houses set well up from 5th Street which provided generous front setbacks.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Harrison house was recorded by the Interfaith Housing Corporation of Richmond, Indiana and the Department of Housing and Urban Development in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to mitigate the adverse effect of the expansion of the Knollwood Apartments. John A. Burns, AIA, was the HABS project coordinator. The records were prepared by Jacobs/Maze Associates, Inc., under the supervision of John R. Kelley, AIA, Director. Historical data was prepared by Mr. Kelley, drawings were prepared by Paul Berkowitz with Darvin Lemmon, Tim Jacobs and Jack Phelps, and photographs were taken by Ralph Pyle.

Prepared by Jacobs/Maze Associates, Inc.
111 South 10th Street
Richmond, Indiana 47374

May 1979